



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/935,975	08/23/2001	Martin Schleske	SKE 9877-3 US	1342

7590 08/13/2003

Reising, Ethington, Barnes, Kisselle,
Learman & McCulloch, P.C.
5291 Colony Drive North
Saginaw, MI 48603

EXAMINER

LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2837

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,975

Applicant(s)

SCHLESKE, MARTIN

Examiner

Kim R. Lockett

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 6-15 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-24 of copending Application No. 09935973 in view of Sawada, Janes, and Decker, Jr. et al.

Both sets of claims recite the use of a soundboard comprising a core plate with and fiber coatings that are multidirectional.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada et al in view of Janes and Decker, Jr. et al.

Sawada et al discloses the use of a soundboard for use in an acoustic musical instrument comprising a core plate and a fiber laminate which is provided in the region of the outer surfaces of the core plate.

Sawada does not disclose the use of holes.

Janes discloses the use of long fibers which are embedded in a matrix. The device as taught by Janes also discloses at least one recess surrounded by material regions of the core plate within the are defined by the outline of the soundboard, the total volume of the recesses amounting to at most to 80% (see figure 2)

Janes discloses that one recess in the core plate takes up the entire thickness of the core plate (see figure 3). Janes also discloses that at least one recess (26) occupies only a part of the thickness of the core plate which has individual layers that are composed of fiber and laminates.

Sawada et al and Janes do not disclose the specific use of a low-density core plate.

Decker, Jr. et al discloses the use of a soundboard for a musical instrument comprising a low density (column 3, lines 1-10). Decker also discloses that his plate has different thicknesses (see figure 3)). The device as disclosed by Decker et al also discloses the use of a single or a double layer (column 3, lines 25-32).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by Sawada with the recess as disclosed

Art Unit: 2837

by ^{JANES} Sheehan and the low density characteristics as disclosed by Decker, Jr. in order to achieve a soundboard with sustained high volume musical tones.

Response to Arguments

5. Regarding the applicant's arguments to the Double Patenting rejection, the examiner maintains that the double patenting rejection stands on the basis that both set of claims in 09/935975 and 09/935973 both recite the use of a soundboard comprising a core plate with and fiber coatings that are multidirectional. Although the 09/935973 application does disclose a laminated core plate. However these elements are recited in the newly recited Sawada et al reference. Furthermore with regards to the Decker reference, Decker clearly discloses that the use of low-density soundboards is well known in the art (column 3, lines 1-10).

6. Any inquiry of a **general nature or relating to the status of this application or filed papers** should be directed to the **Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.**

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center located at Crystal Plaza 4. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2800

Art Unit: 2837

CP 4 Fax Center number is (703) 308-77(22 or 24). Fax numbers that provide an auto-reply fax receipt are: for before finals (703) 872-9318 and after finals (703) 872-9319.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC)** whose telephone number is **800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

For requesting copies of Cited Art, Office Actions or the like, or General Problem solving, calls should be directed to the TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 703-306-3329 or by fax at 703-306-5515.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-7615**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi, can be reached on (703) 308-3370.

Kim Lockett
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2837


KIMBERLY LOCKETT
PRIMARY EXAMINER